

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 08664 250703Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
EUR-12 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 (ISO) W
-----114080 251503Z /64

R 250617Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6245
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 08664

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN
SUBJECT: US-ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 126829, (B) MANILA 8217, (C) STATE
128436, (D) MANILA 8513

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS DELIVERED ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE
AND AGENDA TO MRS. MANALO AT DFA. HER REACTION WAS
ENTHUSIASTIC, SHE UNDERTOOK TO GET PAPERS TO OTHER
ASEANS FORTHWITH, AND SHE EXPECTED SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT
ON SCHEDULE AND AGENDA TO EMERGE FROM JUNE 5-7 ASEAN
STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING IN BANGKOK. END SUMMARY.

1. PURSUANT TO REF A. ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ON MAY 24
DELIVERED ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE AND AGENDA TO MRS. MANALO
AND HER ASSISTANT JOSE FERNANDEZ. SHE WAS PLEASED TO
RECEIVE THEM AND UNDERTOOK TO WIRE THEM IMMEDIATELY TO
THE FOUR OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS. SHE FORESAW LITTLE OR
NO ALTERATION OF THEM AS FAR AS ASEAN SIDE WAS CONCERNED.
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PAGE 02 MANILA 08664 250703Z

2. WITH RESPECT TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT SCHEDULED FOR
AUGUST 4 SHE HOPED THAT ALL DELEGATES, NOT JUST ASEAN
DELEGATION CHIEFS, COULD HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MEETING
PRESIDENT CARTER. WITH RESPECT TO ITEM 10. B. OF DRAFT
AGENDA SHE EXPRESSED THE HOPE OF HAVING ASEAN PRIVATE
SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON DURING MEETING AND,

IF THIS CAME ABOUT, THAT APPROPRIATE US PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR DIALOGUE. SHE ALSO ASKED SEVERAL DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT OTHER ITEMS ON DRAFT AGENDA SUCH AS BACKGROUND OF MR. REINHART (ITEM 8) AND AMBASSADOR WOLFF (ITEM 9).

3. SHE WAS QUITE CANDID IN EXPRESSING HER WISH THAT OTHER US EMBASSIES IN ASEAN NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS SCHEDULE AND AGENDA WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY AS SHE WAS GETTING AGENDA AND SCHEDULE TO THEM FORTHWITH AND ASEANS WOULD BE CONSIDERING AT A STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5, 6 AND 7 IN BANGKOK. SHE WAS ALSO TAKING STEPS TO COMMUNICATE AGENDA AND SCHEDULE TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO PRESENTLY IN NEW YORK, PARTICULARLY AS DFA MANILA EVIDENTLY HAS NOT YET HAD REPORT FROM ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON MAY 17 MEETING OF SECRETARY HOLBROOK WITH ASEAN WASHINGTON COMMITTEE.

4. SHE ALSO HANDED EMBOFF FOUR MORE PAPERS (FROM MALAYSIA) FOR OUR CONSIDERATION IN RE AGENDA OF US/ASEAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MEETING IN MANILA NOW PROPOSED FOR JULY 7 AND 8 (REF B.). THESE PAPERS RELATE TO REF B. AGENDA ITEMS 4 B (I), 4 G (II), 4 G (III) AND 4 G (IV). THESE ARE BEING POUCHED TO EA/EP. ALSO WITH REFERENCE TO THAT AGENDA SHE SAID ASEAN WAS DROPPING ITEM 4 F (I) WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS "MARINE TRAINING PAPER".
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PAGE 03 MANILA 08664 250703Z

5. ON BASIS OF ILLUSTRATIVE DRAFT AGENDA SHE SPECULATED THAT IN ADDITION TO SECRETARIES VIRATA, PATERNO AND QUIAZON (OR UNDERSECRETARY OF TRADE VALDEPENAS) SECRETARY OF ENERGY VELASCO MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED IN GOP DELEGATION.

6. FINALLY AND WITH REFERENCE TO SUBJECT OF REF D., SHE AND FERNANDEZ THOROUGHLY SHARED OUR DISAPPOINTMENT OVER POSTPONEMENT OF JUNE 5-6 MANILA MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, SAYING THAT DFA HAD BROWBEATEN THAIS INTO WITHDRAWING REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT BUT HAD HAD TO CAVE IN WHEN INDONESIANS AND MALAYSIANS ALSO WANTED POSTPONEMENT. SHE WAS QUITE APPRECIATIVE OF USG DIFFICULTIES IN REASSEMBLING US TEAM FOR JULY 7 AND 8, AND INDICATED THAT OUT OF CONSIDERATION FOR US TEAM DFA HAD AVOIDED JULY 4 DATE.

7. COMMENT: OUR GUESS IS THAT OTHER ASEANS WILL BE PLEASANTLY TAKEN ABACK AND PUT ON THEIR METTLE BY THE NOW INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG APPROACHING AUGUST 3-4 MINISTERIAL AND US EFFORT

ALREADY INVESTED IN THE ENTERPRISE. OUR EXPECTATION IS
THAT GOP WILL USE ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE AND DRAFT AGENDA
TO FLAY THE RELUCTANT ASEAN DRAGONS, AND GENERATE THE
INTENSIFIED AND TIMELY ASEAN EFFORT THAT WILL BE NECESSARY
TO PRODUCE A SUCCESSFUL SECOND US/ASEAN MEETING, AT
MINISTERIAL LEVEL, IN WASHINGTON AUGUST 3 AND 4.
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